

Photovoltaics History and Technology Prepared for the National Parks Service Steve Butterworth Energy Manager, West Region May, 2002

Solar Electricity: The Reliable, Economical, Clean Distributed Power Solution



Photovoltaics (PV) vs. other solar - PV converts sunlight directly into electricity







Distributed Solar Thermal

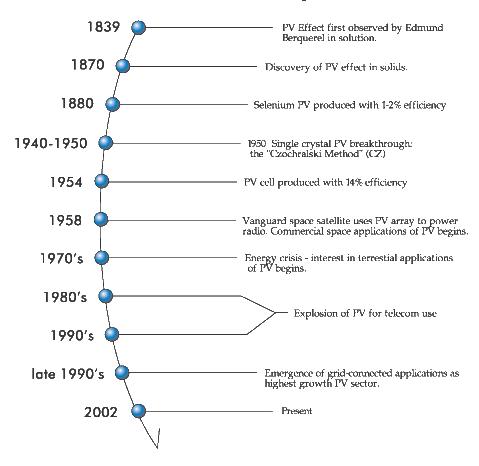
Centralized Solar Thermal

Photovoltaics

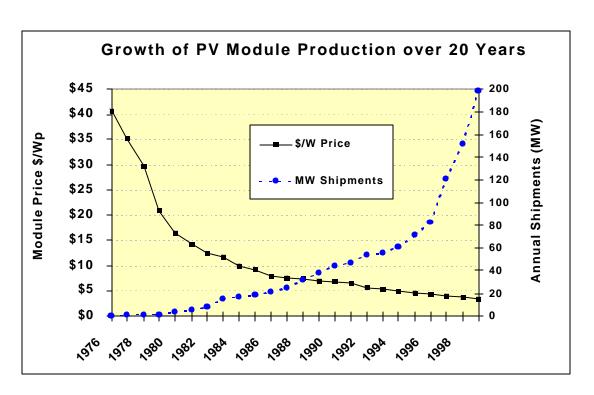
Topics Covered

- History of Photovoltaics
- PV Technology Basics
- Commercial Grid-Connected Systems
- Benefits of on-site PV generation

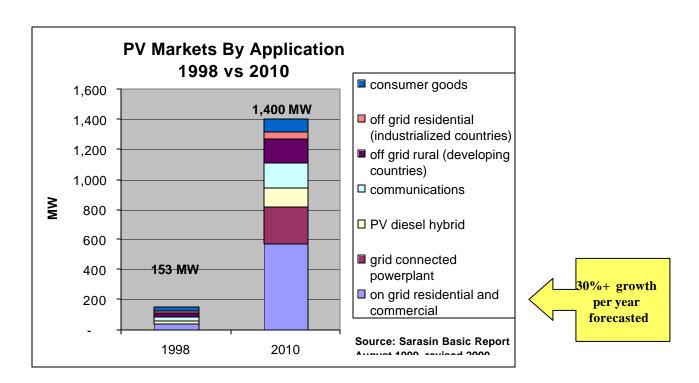
PV History Timeline



PV prices have fallen 10x in the last 25 years



Grid-connected systems are now the fastest growing segment of the PV market



History of PV

Who uses commercial PV systems today?























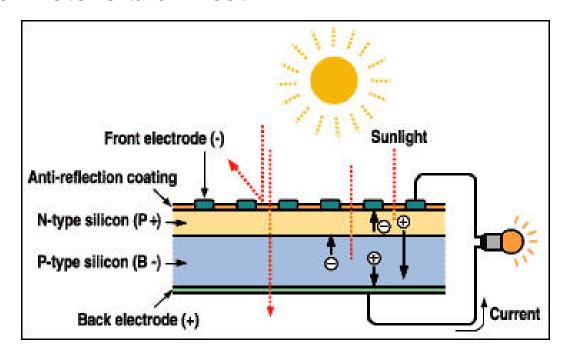






Photovoltaic Basics

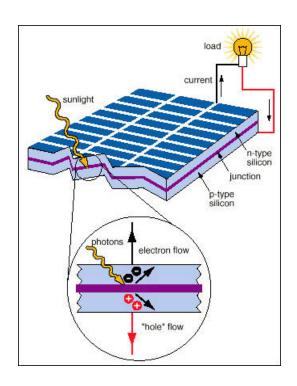
PV Technology Fundamentals – "The Photovoltaic Effect"



Sunlight excites electrons in the solar cell and creates electric current

Photovoltaic Basics

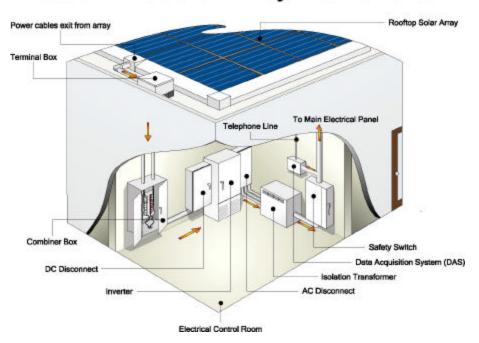
PV cells are connected together to form a module



Commercial Grid-Connected Systems

Basic components of a commercial gridconnected solar system

Solar Electric Array Flowchart



Commercial Grid Connected Systems Traditional methods of mounting PV on flat, commercial rooftops are problematic





Conventional attachment

Ballast tray

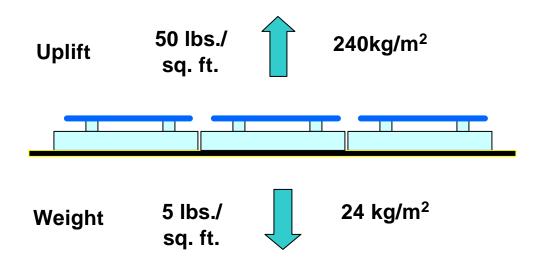
Commercial Grid Connected Systems

PowerLight provides the best mounting solution for commercial PV installations

- Patented
- Lightweight
- No penetration
- Insulates roof
- Protects roof
- Pre-engineered
- UL listed



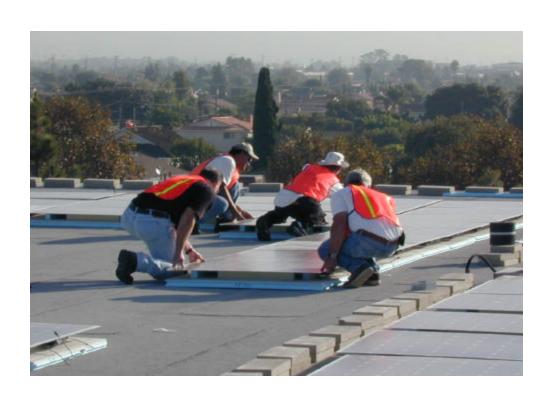
Commercial Grid Connected Systems Lightweight and wind resistant



Commercial Grid Connected Systems Palletized shipping and lifting

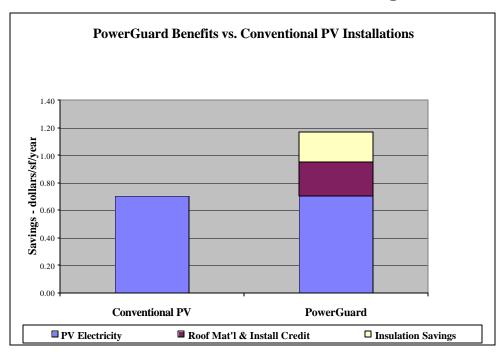


Commercial Grid Connected Systems Fast non-invasive installation

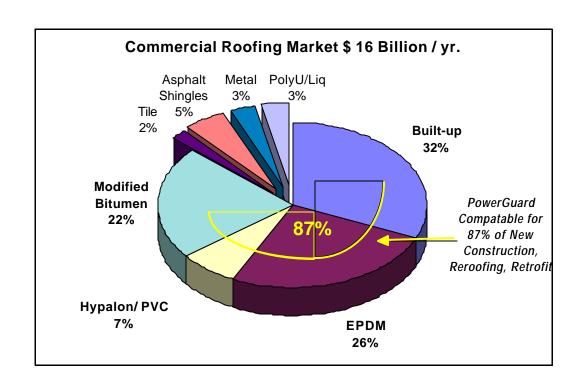


Commercial Grid Connected Systems Value advantage of PowerLight rooftop systems

Benefits vs. conventional mounting

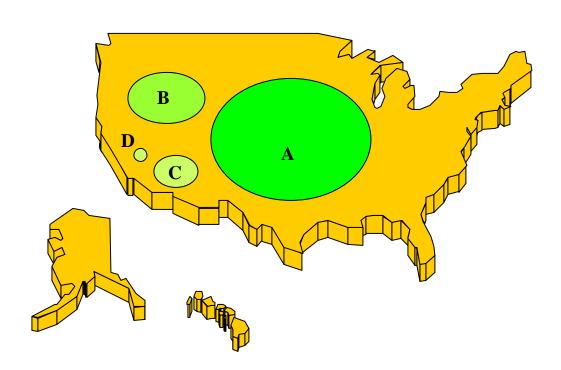


PowerGuard ® Compatible with 87% of existing US roofs



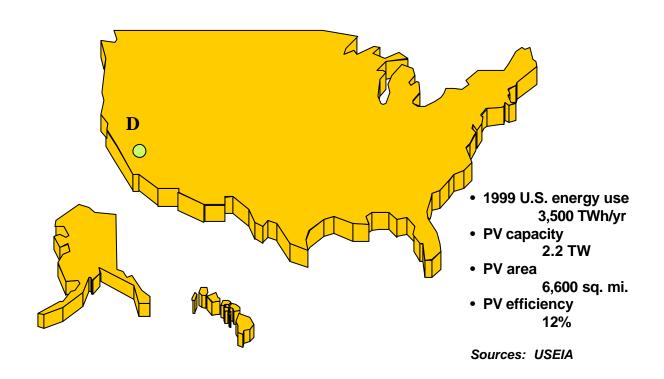
Commercial Grid Connected Systems

What area of PV is required to satisfy 100% of US electrical energy needs?



Commercial Grid Connected Systems

Area D: PV in a 45-mile radius would serve total US electric energy needs



Why the National Park Service Chose to Implement a Solar Electric System

Financially prudent

- 1) Zero fuel costs
- 2) Financial hedge against fuel price increases
- 3) Coincident with expensive "peak" electricity

Reliable

- 1) Proven technology
- 2) 20 to 25 year warranties on electricity generation
- 3) Virtually maintenance-free

Clean

- 1) Zero emissions
- 2) 100% renewable
- 3) Over-the-counter permitting

Safe and Silent

Yosemite Solar Project Summary:

Project Size: 47 kWp, 350 solar electric rooftiles covering

approximately 4,500 square feet of the NPS's

El Portal Maintenance Facility

Turnkey Contractor: PowerLight Corp.

Product: PowerGuard solar rooftop tiles

Generates enough electricity to power more than 45 homes

Reduces National Park Service's peak energy consumption by 10%

Environmental savings:

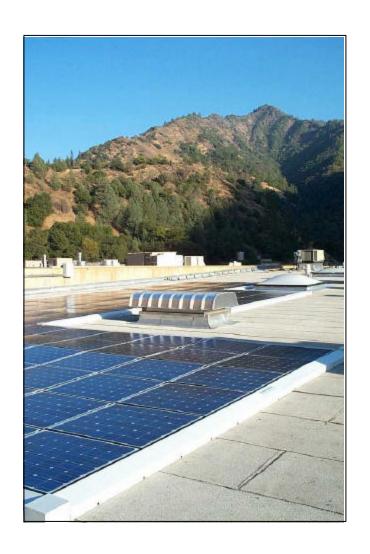
1,508 tons of carbon dioxide over 25 years

950 lbs of Nox over 25 years 25 lbs of SO2 over 25 years

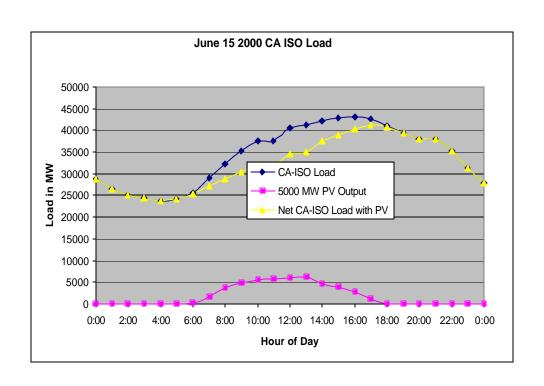
Project Economics: 11% IRR or 11 year payback

National Park Service El Portal, CA Maintenance Facility

47kWp PowerGuard solar electric roof system

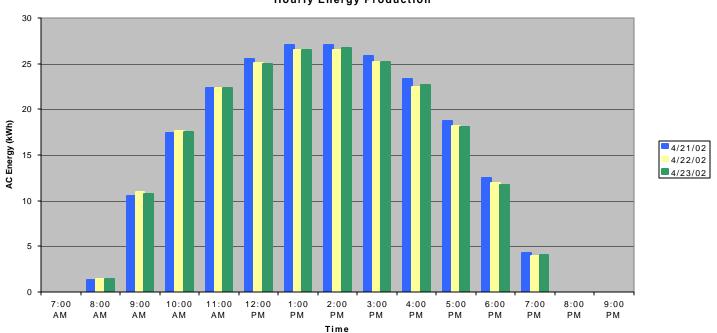


PV is coincident with peak-power demand, and shaves system peaks



PV is a reliable, proven technology, with highly predictable energy output

BPA Yosemite El Portal PowerLight System Hourly Energy Production



Benefits of onsite PV generation

PV is the cleanest energy technology available. The El Portal system will save:

25 Year Lifetime Predicted Energy: 1,331,065 kWh

Offset emissions: 1,500 tons of CO₂ (smog, acid rain)

950 lbs Nox 25 lbs SO2

Equivalent to: Planting trees: 17 acres

Not driving 3,770,000 miles

PV System Economics

Total system economics has several components

- Geographic location of the system
 - 1) Amount of sun available
 - 2) Electricity rates, especially daytime and summer
 - 3) Local PV incentives
- Savings from total-system benefits
 - 1) Reduction in electricity costs
 - 2) Extended roof life
 - 3) Thermal efficiency benefits
- Net system cost
 - 1) Initial system cost
 - 2) Maintenance costs (virtually none)

PV System Economics

Financial services

- Design most cost-effective payment structure
 - 1) Purchase, when all tax benefits can be used
 - 2) Loan, up to 100% financing
 - 3) Tax lease, cost-effective if tax benefits cannot be used by owner
 - 4) Host system & purchase electricity (3rd-party ownership), more complex. Feasible only in certain states
- Considerations
 - 1) Source of funds. Operating vs. capital budget
 - 2) Cash flow

Questions to consider for on-site solar

- How much solar can your real estate support (flat or sloped roofs, parking lots, open land)? 10,000 sq. ft. or more
- What is your annual electricity consumption in kWh?
- What is your annual electricity cost?
- What is your cost per peak kWh?
- Do you have solar incentives in your State?